

Lindi Biggi

From: Janice Heller [wheller@dc.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 12:15 PM
To: Lindi Biggi
Cc: Alan Gamble
Subject: Spay & Neuter Law

We currently have a perfect, heartbreaking example of what happens to a wonderful pet without such a Law. Perhaps you can use some of this, Lindi:

This past week a resident in Sun City Palm Desert found a shivering Chihuahua in her yard after dark on a chilly night. She could not keep him with her dog, and she works. The dog was taken to the Main Gate where they would hold him for a while and then have to send him to the County shelter.

The finder phoned the President of the Sun City Pet Lovers Club. My husband and I hurried to the Main Gate to scan the dog with a Universal Scanner. I could not find a microchip so wrapped the dog in a towel and took him home after leaving my name & phone number at the Main Gate. We fell in love with the little rascal. He's a handsome Chi (probably purebred or maybe pedigreed). Unfortunately, he and our Chi-mix are alpha males and before long decided to fight to be top dog.

Fortunately, a friend who has two spayed female Chi's took "Bambi" home with her. A couple of days later he was settled in and relaxed so I rescanned. NO MICROCHIP; NO COLLAR. No way to get him home. Chihuahuas do not do well in a shelter unless it's for small dogs only, and we're considering that option. Such stress might even cause these dear, affectionate dog to become aggressive and therefore unadoptable.

We know this dog is a pet. He does not eat dog food and has obviously been fed "people" food. He will not eat a mixture of the two. He loves to be held, is housebroken and is used to sleeping on the softest furniture he finds - and he knows where to find it. He did not have a "doggie odor" and not have an "outdoor odor" when found. He gets along with other Chi's (females) and with a cat. Everyone who meets him falls in love with him and is rewarded with multiple kisses/licks.

We're holding him for a while in case he belongs in Sun City or was visiting here. We're running an ad in "The Desert Sun," he will be announced on the local radio tomorrow, and I'll be phoning local shelters to find out whether anyone has been looking for him. However, this dog is UNNEUTERED and might have walked miles searching for a mate.

A law such as that being considered would have protected this adorable little fellow from having been out on the street hungry, alone and cold.

(We're searching for the owner and for a potential new owner; however, we can't force the issue of neutering if the owner shows up!)

Thank you, Lindi, for speaking out for all the millions of pets who need help.

Janice Heller

Internal Virus Database is out of date.
Checked by AVG - <http://www.avg.com>
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.9.6/1797 - Release Date: 11/18/2008 11:23 AM

Fax: From Lindi Biggi
73-179 Joshua Tree
Palm Desert, California 92260

To: Clerk's Office
951-955-1071

Re: Riverside County Spay/Neuter & Microchip Ordinance
Ordinance No 630.12

Hi, I am trying to drive to your meeting, however should road conditions cause me to turn back, I ask that you might ask someone to read this statement on my behalf.

My qualifications to speak on this subject include being a past, owner/operator of a large (5,000 sq. ft) exotic bird pet store in Oregon and also financed the operation of a thirty acre breeding facility. I have been active with many animal welfare organizations since moving to the desert with twelve years of intense involvement at Animal Samaritans, SPCA, serving on the Board of Directors and starting and serving as leader of their auxiliary organization. During this time I was very involved with various facets of the Katrina nightmare and have spent much time and energy learning how we can better serve our companion animals during a disaster. I am currently President and founder of Loving All Animals, a California non-profit organization and also a National Director with PetSmart Charities. I know and love animals and to the bottom of my heart feel this ordinance is the start of something wonderful happening for them.

I have an email list of over two hundred animal lovers and I did forward this proposed ordinance to them and received many messages back, all supporting the passage of this document. Picking one reply from Janice Heller of Sun City which I am attaching and which may be too long to read, in essence it says:

"We currently have a perfect, heartbreaking example of what happens to a wonderful pet without such a Law. We found a shivering Chihuahua which we scanned - NO MICROCHIP, NO COLLAR, No way to get him home. This dog is unneutered and might have walked miles searching for a mate. A law such as this being considered would have protected this adorable little fellow from having been out on the street hungry, alone and cold."

Janice Heller

I also ask that you give thought to the mess created by Katrina and the fact that we in Riverside County are constantly facing natural disasters with fire and live under threat of a huge earthquake. Microchips are the only method of animal management under natural disaster conditions and the only hope of getting them back to their owners at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindi Biggi